

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /080 W
----- 017725

R 271512Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8085
INFO USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINT GE GW UR WB

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA HABITS ON GERMAN ISSUES

REF: USBERLIN 1771

WITH ITS LONGER, OLDER AND MORE FINELY TUNED ANTENNAE, DEPART-
MENT IS IN BETTER POSITION THAN WE TO JUDGE THE THEMATIC
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VARIOUS SOVIET STATEMENTS ON RECENT BORDER
INCIDENTS IN CONTEXT OF SOVIET MEDIA HABITS VIS-A-VIS GERMAN
ISSUES (PARA 4 REFTTEL). FROM OUR LESSER PERCH, WE WOULD
NOTE, WITH REGARD TO THE THREE STATEMENTS ANALYZED, THAT THEY
BECOME MORE PUGNACIOUS AND UNHELPFUL AS THE SOURCE BECOMES
LESS AUTHORITATIVE. IN STANDARD SOVIET TERMS, THE ASCENDING
ORDER OF "AUTHORITATIVENESS" IS PEACE AND PROGRESS, RADIO
MOSCOW, AND PRAVDA. IN OUR EXPERIENCE, SUCH DISTINCTIONS
ARE QUITE COMMON, ON GERMAN AS ON OTHER ISSUES, WITH
PRAVDA NORMALLY THE MOST PRUDENT AND THE BEST READING
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FOR THOSE WHO SEEK "OFFICIAL" SOVIET VIEWS. WHETHER

"ORCHESTRATION" IS SPECIFIC (FINE TUNED ON EACH ISSUE)
OR INSTITUTIONAL (WITH SOME MEDIA GETTING MORE REIN THAN
PRAVDA, AND DISTINCTIONS ON PARTICULAR ISSUES A KIND OF
FALLOUT OF THIS GENERAL SITUATION) IS AN OLDER AND MORE
GENERAL PROBLEM ON WHICH DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS WILL BE
WELCOME.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW13586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-0297
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760813/aaaaakgu.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USBERLIN 1771
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET MEDIA HABITS ON GERMAN ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GC, GE, UR, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006